

Kittery's Road to Zero Waste

Updated Jan. 25, 2013

Committee Work

The Kittery Road to Zero Waste Initiative is a strategy for future activities and services provided by the Department of Public Works (DPW) for the next 30 years. This Town-led Initiative looks at the DPW in its entirety and lays the framework for how the Department will partner with other communities, schools, and a variety of public and private organizations in order to leverage resources so we can provide services to our customers and empower our community to achieve Zero Waste. The Initiative calls for the DPW and our town government to lead by example, so our citizens and others can learn to live a zero waste lifestyle. Our overarching goal is top notch communication and collaboration in achieving a Zerowaste Goal by 2040!

PAST COMMITTEE WORK

The Initiative started to take shape through the hard work of the Solid Waste and Recycling Committee (SWRC), which began in January 2010 and ended with the sharing of their final report in July 2011. Over the eighteen month period, the group worked on four core areas: (1) Review existing operations, (2) Determine necessary modifications/changes in the current operations, (3) Review regionalizing the facility services, and (4) assess the operations of the facility as an enterprise fund. Their findings serve as the foundation of this plan and you will see their impact interwoven in future short and long term goals.

The Fourteen recommendations in the Final Report are as follows:

1. Create incentives to reduce the volume of MSW and to increase the volume of recyclables delivered to the SWF by implementing a PAYT system of trash metering
2. Operate the SWF as an Enterprise Fund
3. Continue annual review of the SWF Recoverables
4. Require all Town Departments, especially the schools, to contract their recyclable materials through the SWF (Underway as part of this Initiative)
5. Expand current efforts to educate
6. Encourage private-public partnerships
7. Ensure that an audit of residential trash flow & charges be completed within 1 year
8. Approve funding to install scales and investigate other capital improvements
9. Other capital and recommendations for safety – a new baler
10. Adopt a financial flow control
11. Direct the Town Manager to (again) contact the State Department of Transportation regarding the Route 236 traffic control
12. Charge a successor to the SWRC to evaluate the feasibility of an Eco-Maine style program
13. Investigate and encourage Community Composting
14. Administrative history

CURRENT COMMITTEE WORK

During 2012, our newly formed Zero Waste Initiative Leadership Team has just started to take shape. We have been taking many steps in “walking the talk” first in our town and school facilities. Recycling Teacher Leaders are in place in all schools, Principals are on board, Custodial Leaders are actively engaged, and DPW is at the helm! We are committed to monthly meetings to shape the path forward. Visit: http://www.kitteryme.gov/Pages/KitteryME_DPW/ZeroWasteInitiative/index. We invite community feedback through our survey at : <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/zerowasteinitiative>